From:	STUART GEDAL
To:	Devereux, Jan
Subject:	PLEASE VOTE "NO" ON ANTI-ISRAEL VERSION OF RESOLUTION
Date:	Monday, April 16, 2018 2:16:08 PM
Attachments:	Devereux.doc

Hello, Jan-

I am a voter, taxpayer, and long-time resident of North Cambridge, and have been for 36 years. My wife and I have volunteered in the Cambridge Schools that our children attended, and I was one of the founders of Cambridge Youth Hockey's Learn-to-Skate program and coached it for many years.

We are both disturbed by the distortion that seems to be taking place in relation to a resolution to boycott Hewlett-Packard. What was a discussion about privacy and freedom in relation to high technology has been hijacked and driven into a discussion about one country which happens to use HP products in its security program.

The devices in question are not unlike the ones we use every day - in our airports, most of our workplaces, shopping malls, and now-sadly-schools.

An international political organization and lobbying group - Palestinian Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) - has moved into our discussion and steered it away from our concerns for civil liberties and turned this into a discussion of the practices of Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, and Israel. Except: only the human rights practices of one group-Israel-are under scrutiny. The fact that the group deceptively deletes the first word of its name from its literature here in the US, something I only discovered by going online to give their material a final read yesterday, speaks mountains about why the City Council should be leary of any association with this group.

I think this is revealing about this group's true interests. I think we are a bit far afield here, especially because it has turned out that BDS is not a peace group nor a lobby for reconciliation. Such a group would concern itself as well with the use of stabbings, car rammings, and terrorist bombs as deadly political tools against civilians in Israeli. Certainly the "right to live" is a human right, too.

Unlike some groups that I am familiar with on the Middle East issue, BDS is extreme. BDS wants every country (they are active in the EU and UK) to boycott everything made in any part of Israel. There are boycotts of products that are manufactured in disputed territories. BDS opposes Israel's right to even exist as a country so they are asking us to boycott products sold to or made in the Israel that was created by the UN in 1947 and accepted by Jordan, Egypt, and even the United Nations in 1967.

Please vote "No" if any such resolution - with anti-Israel wording - comes up in a Subcommittee that you are part of or on the floor of the City Council. Let's get back to focusing on ***our*** issue - the balance between our freedom and the government's use of technology, whether here in the US or abroad.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and hopefully some further concepts about this issue that are attached.

Sincerely,

Stuart

Stuart Gedal
72 Montgomery Street
Cambridge, MA 02140
617-543-6792